

Dear FCC board members,

Given recent attempts by Clearchannel communications to stifle the public statements made by the Dixie Chicks I believe it is irrefutably clear that this issue is of prime importance to the American democratic process. If one company, Clearchannel Communications, can already exert its overwhelming power over its artists, it stands to reason that further media ownership consolidation is a bad idea. George Orwell's haunting book 1984 comes to mind and I for one do NOT want corporations stifling dissent. If our forefathers had not aired dissenting views would we still be living with slavery, women's suffrage, child labor, etc.?

It may sound far-fetched but given Clearchannel's assault against the Dixie Chicks I shudder to think what would happen in a world where Clearchannel owned the TV, Radio and Newspaper. Now suppose Clearchannel owned the Dixie Chick's record company would the Dixie Chicks be given an ultimatum to apologize and tow the corporate line or lose your recording contract. This may sound far-fetched but in a world where AOL can buy Time Warner I just can NOT help thinking these rules of ownership are vital and should not be relinquished or changed.